GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
TRAVEL ADVISORIES FOR INFLUENZA A H1N1
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently issued travel advisories against travel by Indians to some countries in the wake of the spread of Influenza A H1N1;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to stop the spreading of influenza?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) Yes.

(b) Government of India issued travel advisory on 29-04-2009 to defer non-essential travel to affected countries.

(c) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Entry screening of passengers is continuing at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. 28 Thermal Scanners have been installed at major international airports.

Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. Laboratory network has been strengthened. There are forty one laboratories (23 in Government Sector and 18 in Private Sector) testing the clinical samples.

Government of India procured 40 million capsules and 4 lakh bottles of Oseltamivir, the drug to treat H1N1 Flu. 18 million have been given to the States/ UTs. Restricted sale of Oseltamivir is allowed through retail outlets having license to sell Schedule X drug. Adequate stock of personal protective equipments has been kept. Three Indian manufacturers of Vaccine are being supported to manufacture H1N1 vaccine. Four million doses are being imported to vaccinate the higher risk group. Training of district level teams is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. IMA has been provided funds to train private practitioners.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery, open large number of screening centres and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

A task force in the I&B Ministry is implementing the media plan. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. All such information is also available on the website: http://mohfw-h1n1.nic.in

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.